Testimony of J. W. Zacharie

July 2d, 1

Collated.

The following testimony of Mr Zacharie, was written by Mr Zacharie himself.

Mr. Zacharie

James W. Zacharie of the mercantile firm of J. W. Zacharie & Co. trading with Mexico says that ~~this~~ his house, has at various periods received Gold & Silver bullion which he has deposited for assay & coinage at the Branch of the U.S. Mint at New-Orleans, has always found the Officers attached thereto, civil & polite.

In one of his deposites of gold bullion mixed with silver, the Assayers report made his gold fall short more a thousand dollars of the Mexican assay, he afterwards learned from Mr. Maxwell that there had been more gold found in the bars than reported by the Assayer, Dr. Hort, which of course their house claims, the gold had been assayed thrice in Mexico & the owner Mr. J. P. Schetnell has expressed great dissatisfaction# he still expressed himself, dissatisfied with the result as he said that the Mexican Assayers had too much experience to commit such blunders. He has heard a complaint of the Mint not delivering coined funds

and on a recent visit to this quarter, after an argument with Dr. Hort, who made some explanation, he

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Mr. Zacharie

fast enough & that several parcels of bullion, he has deposited & sold the Certificates of to several Banks have not been redeemed although it has now been more than a year.

Examined on behalf of Mr. Maxwell.

There has been a desire on the part of the public of New-Orleans & a necessity to obtain the substitution of small coin for the small paper circulation under five dollars. The coinage of small change at this Mint, is deemed here a measure of public convenience & of great utility.

Is acquainted with the character of Mr. Maxwell the Melter & Refiner & of Mr. Tyler the Coiner Considers both of them as men of high reputation and industrious & attentive habits. Deponent has often visited the Mint & has always found them attentively employed, has seen Dr. Hort several times & found him industriously engaged in his duties, Deponent always found the other Officers here & apparently engaged in

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their duties, which however as they lay in the charge of accounts & documents he did not pay so much attention, has never heard of or known any attempts on the part of Mr. Maxwell or Mr. Tyler in the public prints or otherwise to injure the New-Orleans Mint.

Mr. Zacharie

By the Commissioner

Deponent is of opinion as a Merchant from information & views founded on the pursuit of his profession for 24 years in New-Orleans, that extensive coinage at this Mint would have a very beneficial effect upon the Commercial affairs of Louisiana & the Southern Country. Deponent has large importations now on the way from the interior of Mexico, via Pecan point on the Red River, & also via Matamoros. Supposes about $200,000. The price of coinage is less in New-Orleans than in Mexico, & if untrammeled by prohibitory laws in Mexico thinks large amounts would find their way thence to New-Orleans.